



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSING COMMITTEE  
SB No. 168 An Act Establishing A Right To Housing  
&  
SB No. 5208 An Act Concerning Housing Opportunities for Justice-Impacted Persons  
Tuesday, March 1st, 2022

KILEY GOSSELIN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
PARTNERSHIP FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES

Senator Lopes, Representative Williams, Senator Cicarella, Representative Polletta, and distinguished members of the Housing Committee, my name is Kiley Gosselin, and I am the Executive Director at the Partnership for Strong Communities (PSC). We are a statewide nonprofit policy and advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring everyone in Connecticut has a safe, stable home that is affordable to them in an equitable community of their choice where they can thrive. PSC staffs and manages both the statewide Reaching Home Campaign to prevent end homelessness in Connecticut and the HOMEConnecticut Campaign to ensure that all Connecticut residents have access to a range of affordable housing choices in all communities. Each campaign brings together over 100 state and non-profit partners to identify and implement data-driven policy solutions and prepare consensus legislative agendas.

**We support establishing a right to housing in Connecticut.** All Connecticut residents should have the right to access safe, stable, and affordable housing that meets all their basic human needs. A state commitment to progressively implement policies to respect, protect, and fulfill a right to affordable, decent, safe, and stable housing would help prevent the most serious consequences of housing insecurity and homelessness. Establishing right to housing legislation would help to align state policies to consider protection from housing loss, the right to safe housing that meets all basic needs, housing affordability, rehousing assistance, and recognition of special circumstances contributing to housing insecurity.

**We are also supportive of HB No. 5208 An Act Concerning Housing Opportunities for Justice-Impacted Persons.** Of the approximately 11 million people detained or incarcerated in jails every year nationally, as many as 15% report having been homeless.<sup>1</sup> Housing provides a foundation for achieving not only housing stability, but also other reentry goals like gainful employment, sobriety, mental and physical health. Having a consistent address makes it easier for individuals to keep appointments, receive case management services, and complete reentry programs.<sup>2</sup>

**We know that homelessness is solvable.** Connecticut can make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time by investing in housing, supportive services, and the people and infrastructure that support our most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cceh.org/criminal-justice-involvement-and-homelessness/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/Criminal\\_Justice\\_Involvement\\_08\\_2016.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Criminal_Justice_Involvement_08_2016.pdf)





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